

Message Text

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62

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7398

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 10616

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG XF

SUBJECT: HAYKAL ARTICLES IN BEIRUT PAPERS

REF: A. DAMASCUS 4082

B. JIDDA 6974

1. SINCE ROUND FOUR BEGAN, AND PARTICULARLY IN LAST TWO WEEKS, WE HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVING BEIRUT NEWSPAPERS ROUTINELY. REF A NOTES DAMASCUS PRESS HAS CITED A HAYKAL ARTICLE. WE SUSPECT THIS MUST HAVE ORIGINALLY APPEARED IN A BEIRUT PAPER, PROBABLY AL-ANWAR, SINCE HAYKAL HAS NOT BEEN PERMITTED PUBLISH HERE FOR SOME TIME.

2. FOR JIDDA: PRESUME THIS ANSWERS QUESTION POSED JIDDA REF B, PARA 3. COMMENT PROVOKED IN JIDDA BY HAYKAL'S WRITING IS INTERESTING REMINDER THAT HIS REPUTATION SEEMS LITTLE DIMINSHED BY FACT THAT HE IS NO LONGER "CENTER OF POWER." HAYKAL'S ANTI-SINAI II VIEWS ARE WELL-KNOWN IN EGYPT, ALTHOUGH WE HAD NOT BEEN AWARE HE WAS WRITING ABOUT THEM. PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR US LECTURE TOUR TOWARD BEGINNING OF OCTOBER, HE HAD RECEIVED PARADE OF VISITORS, INCLUDING AMERICAN JOURNALISTS, TO WHOM HE EXPOUNDED HIS BELIEF THAT SINAI II HAD SEALED SADAT'S FATE AS ARAB LEADER. FROM REPORTS TRICKLING BACK TO US, HAYKAL'S RATIONALE IS THAT NO EGYPTIAN LEADER CAN LAST IF HE IS POLITICALLY ISOLATED WITHIN ARAB WORLD AND THAT EVEN SAUDIS WILL SOON BE FED UP WITH
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SUPPORTING AN INCREASINGLY ISOLATED EGYPT.

3. HAYKAL'S VIEWS CIRCULATE IN CAIRO LIKE WILDFIRE. GENERAL VIEW, HOWEVER, IS THAT HE HAS NO REAL POWER BASE ANYMORE AND THAT RECENT AUTHORIZED ATTACKS ON HIM IN AKHBAR (CAIRO 10539), TOGETHER WITH ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS OFFICIAL RETIREMENT AS AHRAH CHAIRMAN, WEAKEN HIS HAND EVEN FURTHER. NEVERTHELESS, HE SEEMS GENUINELY CONVINCED THAT SADAT IS BACKING THE WRONG HORSE AND PRESUMABLY WANTS TO BE COUNTED AMONG THE RANKS OF THE ARTICULATE OPPOSITION FROM THE BEGINNING OF SADAT'S PRESUMED POLITICAL DECLINE.

4. FOR BEIRUT: RECOGNIZE YOU ARE PRESENTLY OCCUPIED WITH MORE SERIOUS AFFAIRS, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR LETTING US KNOW IF HAYKAL HAS IN FACT STARTED HIS ANWAR SERIES, AGAIN.
MAESTRONE

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